

BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

1 2 Arizona Corporation Commission COMMISSIONERS DOCKETED 3 ROBERT "BOB" BURNS - Chairman APR 26 2019 4 ANDY TOBIN **BOYD DUNN** 5 SANDRA D. KENNEDY DOCKETED E JUSTIN OLSON 6 In the matter of 7 DOCKET NO. S-21054A-18-0301 TITAN FUNDING GROUP I, LLC, an 8 Arizona limited liability company, 77160 DECISION NO. 9 TITAN CAPITAL REAL ESTATE FUND I, LLC, a Delaware limited liability 10 company, ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST, ORDER FOR RESTITUTION, ORDER FOR 11 TITAN CAPITAL HOLDINGS LLC, a ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES AND Nevada limited liability company, CONSENT TO SAME 12 ADAM W. CHILD and ERIN M. CHILD. BY: RESPONDENT RODERICK R. 13 husband and wife, RICKERT 14 RODERICK R. RICKERT, a single man, 15 Respondents. 16 Respondent Roderick R. Rickert elects to permanently waive any right to a hearing and appeal 17 under Articles 11 and 12 of the Securities Act of Arizona, A.R.S. § 44-1801 et seq. ("Securities Act") 18 with respect to this Order to Cease and Desist, Order for Restitution, Order for Administrative Penalties, and Consent to Same ("Order"). Rickert admits the jurisdiction of the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission"); neither admits nor denies the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of

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Law contained in this Order; and consents to the entry of this Order by the Commission.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Roderick R. Rickert is a single man who at all relevant times resided in Arizona.
- 2. Adam Child is a married man who at all relevant times resided in Arizona.

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- 3. Titan Funding Group I, LLC ("TFG") was formed in Arizona on July 7, 2011, as a member-managed company with Titan Capital as the sole member-manager. TFG was formed because in approximately March 2011, Rickert and Child agreed to partner in an enterprise that would have Rickert handling the real estate side of the business while Child handled the funding side.
- 4. Titan Capital Holdings LLC ("Titan Capital") was formed in Nevada on September 8, 2010, and has been registered to do business in Arizona as a foreign entity since December 28, 2010. The original Articles of Organization filed with the Nevada Secretary of State and the corporate filings with the Commission list Rickert as the managing-member of Titan Capital.
- 5. During the timeframe relevant to this Notice, Child was TFG's president. TFG lists Rickert and Child among the "key managers and employees" in materials given to the investors and offerees described below. Such materials were drafted and reviewed by legal counsel for TFG.
- 6. Titan Capital Real Estate Fund I, LLC ("TCREF") is a Delaware limited liability company formed on September 4, 2013. It did not register as a foreign entity in Arizona.
- 7. In its operating agreement, TCREF states that it is managed by TCG Management LLC, also a Delaware company. Private placement memorandums ("PPMs") for TCREF, drafted and reviewed by legal counsel, list Child and Rickert among its key managers and employees. TCREF's marketing materials describe TCREF's executive team, with Rickert as the CEO and Child as the President. In its PPM, TCREF says that Titan Capital will originate loans on behalf of TCREF.
- 8. Rickert, TFG, Titan Capital and TCREF may be referred to collectively as "Respondents."
- 9. Beginning in 2007, Rickert operated a business that assisted people in buying foreclosure properties. Doing business as "INFOclosure," Rickert's company produced software that listed distressed properties being sold at foreclosure auctions. INFOclosure also assisted with purchasing the properties at auction.
- 10. In late 2010, Rickert created Titan Capital to make hard-money loans—i.e. loans of typically less than 24 months with relatively higher interest rates—to purchasers of real property,

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including foreclosure properties. The typical borrower would use the funds to "fix-and-flip" a property, i.e. purchase a foreclosed, bank-owned or short-sale, single-family property, perform maintenance and reconstruction, then sell the property. Titan Capital would secure its loan to these borrowers with a mortgage or deed of trust recorded on the property. Titan Capital hired Adam Child to be its president in early 2011 to operate this lending business.

- 11. Rickert and Child created TFG and TCREF to raise funds for Titan Capital's lending operations. TFG and TCREF would obtain funds from investors, pool those funds, then transfer funds to Titan Capital. Titan Capital would make loans to persons to purchase properties to "fix-and-flip" and Titan Capital held a first-position lien on such property. Titan Capital also lent money to persons to perform construction on the properties where Titan Capital held a first-position lien. The construction loan would be secured by a second-position lien.
- 12. Titan Capital would charge the borrowers an interest rate between 12% and 18%. It would make its profits on the spread between this interest rate and the 10 11% that TCREF/TFG had to pay to investors.
- 13. Titan Capital would receive a deed of trust securing the loan. Titan Capital was then to enter a pledge agreement with TCREF/TFG where Titan Capital would assign its beneficial interest in the deed of trust to TCREF or TFG.
- 14. Beginning in February 2013, TFG began seeking investors and offering notes to potential investors.
- 15. From August 2011 through September 2015, TFG sold notes to at least 26 persons for a total of at least \$2,577,429. The notes were to accrue interest at either 10% or 11% per annum. TFG would pay the investor monthly interest payments for four years then a balloon payment on the maturity date. These investors have received returns totaling approximately \$798,220.
- Beginning in October 2013, TCREF began seeking investors and offering limited liability company membership interests to potential investors.

- 17. From October 2013 through September 2015, TCREF sold limited liability company membership interests to at least eight persons for a total of at least \$3,794,462. TCREF represented to investors that TCREF would make annual distributions to investors from TCREF revenues that would equal 10% of the amount invested by each respective investor. The TCREF investors have received returns totaling approximately \$688,202.
- 18. TFG and TCREF found these offerees and investors by emailing potential investors on customer lists purchased from marketing firms, holding seminars, contacting existing acquaintances, obtaining referrals from existing investors, and by contacting customers of Child's and Rickert's other businesses.
- Child offered and sold notes and membership interests to at least 20 of the TFG and TCREF investors.
- Rickert offered and sold notes and membership interests to at least 10 of the TFG and TCREF investors.

Misrepresentations and omissions regarding use of investor funds

- 21. TFG and TCREF funds were transferred to Titan Capital. Titan Capital then commingled those funds with its capital and capital from related entities. When Titan Capital failed in October 2015, TFG and TCREF failed too, resulting in investors losing almost the entire amount invested. In February 2016, Rickert caused the Titan Capital and its related entities to go into voluntary receivership. After a few months of the receiver locating assets and reviewing records, it was revealed that Titan Capital's operations differed significantly from representations made to TFG/TCREF investors: it had transferred only a portion of its funds to escrow/title companies, owned few significant real property and deed of trust assets, had made large transfers to Rickert-controlled entities, and may have been insolvent almost from its inception.
- 22. TCREF and TFG had represented to investors and offerees that their funds would be used by Titan Capital to fund hard money loans to borrowers who purchase, rehab, and sell residential

properties; Titan Capital's loan would be secured by a deed of trust that would be pledged to TCREF and TFG.

- 23. Through representations by TFG/TCREF and their employees, several investors understood that their funds would only go towards loans and that TFG/TCREF and Titan Capital would pay for operational expenses with revenues from the interest charged to borrowers.
- 24. In TFG's private placement memorandum, which several investors received, TFG estimated that 100% of funds raised from investors would go to investment, with \$0 going to the company's operational expenses.
- 25. TFG's private placement memorandum also describes in detail its lending operations i.e. transferring money to Titan Capital to loan to borrowers—then states that investor funds would be used to expand the existing loan program.
- 26. TCREF further represented to several investors that Titan Capital was a licensed mortgage broker in Arizona and Nevada and was pursuing similar licensing in California.
- 27. TCREF and TFG described mortgage broker activities when they represented in their PPMs that Titan Capital would pledge 100% of its interest in pools of loans, deeds of trust, mortgages and similar interests that originated from Titan Capital's financing activities. This would secure TCREF's and TFG's obligations to their investors. A copy of the pledge agreement was included in TCREF's and TFG's private placement memorandums.
- 28. Under A.R.S. § 6-906(c), mortgage brokers "shall immediately deposit all monies received by the mortgage broker in an escrow account with an escrow agent licensed pursuant to [A.R.S. Title 6, Chapter 7]. Withdrawals shall only be disbursed according to the terms of the escrow instructions. The escrow agent shall not be the mortgage broker." The same statute requires that mortgage brokers not commingle their appraisal and credit investigation fees with the broker's other monies.
- From 2011 through 2015, TFG and TCREF received approximately \$6,371,891 from investors.

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These funds were commingled with funds from Titan Capital, including approximately

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receiver sold for \$62,703 of net proceeds; interests in 10 performing loans producing monthly income of \$1,793; interests in four loans in default; five contracts for deeds of trust; ownership of two deeds of trust; and a construction loan that later netted \$32,865 for the receiver. In two years of managing the receivership, identifying and liquidating the entities' assets, the receiver was only able to collect a total of \$234,191.64.

Omissions relevant to Adam Child's qualifications

- 34. In TFG and TCREF private placement memorandums and offering materials, Respondents represented that a key officer, Adam Child, was a competent manager with a proven track record of success in real estate financing.
- 35. Respondents omitted material information that would allow investors to evaluate Respondents' claims of Child's past success, the claims of Respondents' ability to generate returns, and Child's ability to manage a company that would generate these returns. These omissions include:
- a) On June 8, 2009, the Coconino County Superior Court entered judgment against Child for \$2,957,227 which includes \$1,956,000 treble damages for fraud and racketeering committed by Child in a real estate development enterprise near Flagstaff, Arizona.¹
- b) In 2009, Child filed for bankruptcy protection. In his bankruptcy, Child sought to discharge the judgment described above along with \$2,800,004 of unsecured claims which included \$263,945 of credit card debt, several deficiencies on foreclosed properties totaling over \$405,000, unpaid office rent, unpaid HOA fees, a \$40,000 deficiency on an automobile lease, and a \$570,000 personal loan. Child's bankruptcy schedules also list \$130,000 of unpaid taxes and \$60,000 of unpaid child and spousal support.
- c) On December 3, 2008, the Department of Financial Institutions found that through statements made by Child, Child's company, Child Mortgage Corporation, violated A.R.S. § 6-909(L) (making a false promise or misrepresentation or conceal an essential or material fact in

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¹ Adam Child made Rickert aware of this litigation around the time Child began working for Titan Capital. Child did not, however, disclose the nature of the litigation or that it involved fraud. In fact, Child and his attorney represented to Rickert that the judgment would go away in later court proceedings.

the course of the mortgage broker business), § 6-909(M) (failure to truthfully account for the monies 1 2 belonging to a party to a mortgage loan transaction or failure to disburse monies in accordance with his agreements) and § 6-909(N) (engaging in illegal or improper business practices). In a consent 3 4 order signed by Child, DFI revoked the entity's mortgage broker license and ordered payment of a \$2,705 penalty. 5 II. 6 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW 7 1. 8 The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Article XV of the 9 Arizona Constitution and the Securities Act. 2. Respondents offered or sold securities within or from Arizona, within the meaning of 10 A.R.S. §§ 44-1801(15), 44-1801(21), and 44-1801(26). 11 3. Respondents violated A.R.S. § 44-1841 by offering or selling securities that were 12 neither registered nor exempt from registration. 13 4. Respondents violated A.R.S. § 44-1842 by offering or selling securities while neither 14 15 registered as a dealer or salesman nor exempt from registration. 5. Respondents violated A.R.S. § 44-1991. 16 Respondents' conduct is grounds for a cease and desist order pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-17 6. 2032. 18 7. 19 Respondents' conduct is grounds for an order of restitution pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-2032. 20 8. Respondents' conduct is grounds for administrative penalties under A.R.S. § 44-2036. 21 9. Rickert directly or indirectly controlled persons or entities within the meaning of 22 23 A.R.S. § 44-1999, including but not limited to TCREF, Titan Capital and TFG. Therefore, Rickert is jointly and severally liable under A.R.S. § 44-1999 to the same extent as these entities for any 24 25 violations of A.R.S. § 44-1991. 26

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III.

ORDER

THEREFORE, on the basis of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Rickert's consent to the entry of this Order, attached and incorporated by reference, the Commission finds that the following relief is appropriate, in the public interest, and necessary for the protection of investors:

IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-2032, that Rickert, and any of his agents, employees, successors and assigns, permanently cease and desist from violating the Securities Act.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Rickert comply with the attached Consent to Entry of Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-2032, that Rickert shall, jointly and severally with all other respondents under Docket No. S-21054A-18-0301, pay restitution to the Commission in the principal amount of \$4,765,771.36 (i.e. the \$6,371,891 of principal invested in TCREF and TFG less the \$1,486,422 the Respondents returned to investors and the \$119,697.64 the receiver paid to investors from proceeds from its settlement with Child and from liquidated respondent entities' assets). This restitution is ordered as a result of the conduct set forth in the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law. Payment is due in full on the date of this Order. Payment shall be made to the "State of Arizona" to be placed in an interest-bearing account controlled by the Commission. The restitution ordered is subject to the offsets described in Commission Rule R14-4-308.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the restitution ordered in the preceding paragraph will accrue interest, as of the date of the Order, at the rate of the lesser of (i) ten percent per annum or (ii) at a rate per annum that is equal to one per cent plus the prime rate as published by the board of governors of the federal reserve system in statistical release H. 15 or any publication that may supersede it on the date that the judgment is entered.

The Commission shall disburse the funds on a pro-rata basis to investors shown on the records of the Commission. Any restitution funds that the Commission cannot disburse because an investor

refuses to accept such payment, or any restitution funds that cannot be disbursed to an investor because the investor is deceased shall be disbursed on a pro-rata basis to the remaining investors shown on the records of the Commission. Any funds that the Commission determines it is unable to or cannot feasibly disburse shall be transferred to the general fund of the state of Arizona.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-2036, that Rickert shall pay an administrative penalty in the amount of \$50,000 as a result of the conduct set forth in the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law. Payment is due in full on the date of this Order. Payment shall be made to the "State of Arizona." Any amount outstanding shall accrue interest as allowed by law.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that payments received by the state of Arizona shall first be applied to the restitution obligation. Upon payment in full of the restitution obligation, payments shall be applied to the penalty obligation.

For purposes of this Order, a bankruptcy filing by Rickert shall be an act of default. If he does not comply with this Order, any outstanding balance may be deemed in default and shall be immediately due and payable.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that if Rickert fails to comply with this order, the Commission may bring further legal proceedings against him, including application to the superior court for an order of contempt.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that no finding of fact or conclusion of law contained in this Order shall be deemed binding against any respondent under this Docket Number who has not consented to the entry of this Order.

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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall become effective immediately. 1 2 BY ORDER OF THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION 3 4 5 COMMISSIONER DUNN 6 7 COMMISSIONER TOBIN COMMISSIONER KENNEDY COMMISSIONER OLSON 8 9 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, MATTHEW J. NEUBERT, Executive Director of the Arizona Corporation Commission, 10 have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the Commission to be affixed at the Capitol, in the City of Phoenix, 11 this 26 day of (2011), 2019. 12 13 14 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 15 16 17 DISSENT 18 19 DISSENT 20 This document is available in alternative formats by contacting Kacie Cannon, ADA Coordinator, 21 voice phone number (602) 542-3931, e-mail kcannon@azcc.gov. 22 (RJM) 23 24 25 26

CONSENT TO ENTRY OF ORDER

- 1. Respondent Rickert admits the jurisdiction of the Commission over the subject matter of this proceeding. Rickert acknowledges that he has been fully advised of his right to a hearing to present evidence and call witnesses and he knowingly and voluntarily waives any and all rights to a hearing before the Commission and all other rights otherwise available under Article 11 of the Securities Act and Title 14 of the Arizona Administrative Code. Rickert acknowledges that this Order constitutes a valid final order of the Commission.
- Rickert knowingly and voluntarily waives any right under Article 12 of the Securities
 Act to judicial review by any court by way of suit, appeal, or extraordinary relief resulting from the entry of this Order.
- Rickert acknowledges and agrees that this Order is entered into freely and voluntarily and that no promise was made or coercion used to induce such entry.
- Rickert has been represented in this matter by attorney Ashley Adams. Rickert has reviewed this order with his attorney and understands all terms it contains.
- 5. Rickert neither admits nor denies the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained in this Order. He agrees that he shall not contest the validity of the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained in this Order in any present or future proceeding in which the Commission is a party.
- 6. Rickert further agrees that he shall not deny or contest the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained in this Order in any present or future: (a) bankruptcy proceeding, or (b) non-criminal proceeding in which the Commission is a party (collectively, "proceeding(s)"). He further agrees that in any such proceedings, the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained in this Order may be taken as true and correct and that this Order shall collaterally estop him from re-litigating with the Commission or any other state agency, in any forum, the accuracy of the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained in this Order. In the event Rickert pursues

bankruptcy protection in the future, he further agrees that in such bankruptcy proceeding, pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 523(a)(19), the following circumstances exist:

- A. The obligations incurred as a result of this Order are a result of the conduct set forth in the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in the Order and are for the violation of Arizona state securities laws, pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 523(a)(19)(A)(i);
- B. This Order constitutes a judgment, order, consent order, or decree entered in a state proceeding pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 523(a)(19)(B)(i), a settlement agreement entered into by Rickert pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 523(a)(19)(B)(ii), and a court order for damages, fine, penalty, citation, restitution payment, disgorgement payment, attorney fee, cost or other payment owed by him pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 523(a)(19)(B)(iii).
- 7. By consenting to the entry of this Order, Rickert agrees not to take any action or to make, or permit to be made, any public statement denying, directly or indirectly, any Finding of Fact or Conclusion of Law in this Order or creating the impression that this Order is without factual basis.
- 8. This Order resolves all claims by the Commission against Rickert arising from the facts described in the Order. While this Order settles this administrative matter between Rickert and the Commission, he understands that this Order does not preclude the Commission from instituting other administrative or civil proceedings for violations based on events not described in the Order.
- 9. Rickert understands that this Order does not preclude the Commission from referring this matter to any governmental agency for administrative, civil, or criminal proceedings that may be related to the matters addressed by this Order.
- 10. Rickert understands that this Order does not preclude any other agency or officer of the state of Arizona or its subdivisions from instituting administrative, civil, or criminal proceedings that may be related to matters addressed by this Order.
- 11. Rickert agrees that he will not apply to the state of Arizona for registration as a securities dealer or salesman or for licensure as an investment adviser or investment adviser representative until all restitution and penalties under this Order are paid in full.

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- 12. Rickert agrees that he will not exercise any control over any entity that offers or sells securities or provides investment advisory services within or from Arizona until all restitution and penalties under this Order are paid in full.
- 13. Rickert agrees that he will continue to cooperate with the Securities Division including, but not limited to, providing complete and accurate testimony at any hearing in this matter and cooperating with the state of Arizona in any related investigation or any other matters arising from the activities described in this Order.
- 14. Rickert consents to the entry of this Order and agrees to be fully bound by its terms and conditions.
- 15. Rickert acknowledges and understands that if he fails to comply with the provisions of the order and this consent, the Commission may bring further legal proceedings against him, including application to the superior court for an order of contempt.
- 16. Rickert understands that default shall render him liable to the Commission for its costs of collection, including reasonable attorneys' fees and interest at the maximum legal rate.
- 17. Rickert agrees and understands that if he fails to make any payment as required in the Order, any outstanding balance shall be in default and shall be immediately due and payable without notice or demand. He agrees and understands that acceptance of any partial or late payment by the Commission is not a waiver of default by the Commission.

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5	Respondent Roderick R. Rickert
6	STATE OF ARRONA
7	STATE OF ARIZONA) SS County of San Diego)
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9	SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE me this day of March 2019.
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11	NOTARYPUBLIC
12	My commission expires:
13	COMM. #2147783 Notary Public - California SAN DIEGO
14	My App. Expires March 28, 2020
15	SERVICE LIST FOR: Titan Funding Group I, LLC et al.
16	Ryan Anderson GUTTILLA MURPHY ANDERSON
17	5415 E. High Street, Suite 200
18	Phoenix, AZ 85054 Attorneys for receiver of Titan Capital and TFG
19	
20	Roderick R. Rickert 501 W. Laredo Ave.
21	Gilbert, AZ 85233 Individual respondent and CEO of TCREF
22	
23	Anne Chapman MITCHELL STEIN CAREY CHAPMAN, PC
24	One Renaissance Square
25	2 North Central Avenue, Suite 1450 Phoenix, AZ 85004
26	Attorneys for Adam and Erin Child

1 BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION 2 COMMISSIONERS 3 ROBERT "BOB" BURNS - Chairman 4 ANDY TOBIN **BOYD DUNN** 5 SANDRA D. KENNEDY JUSTIN OLSON 6 In the matter of: DOCKET NO. S-21054A-18-0301 TITAN FUNDING GROUP I, LLC, an Arizona CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE OF 8 PROPOSED OPEN MEETING limited liability company, AGENDA ITEM 9 TITAN CAPITAL REAL ESTATE FUND I. LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, 10 TITAN CAPITAL HOLDINGS LLC, a Nevada 11 limited liability company, 12 ADAM W. CHILD and ERIN M. CHILD, husband and wife. 13 RODERICK R. RICKERT, a single man, 14 Respondents. 15 16 On this 9th day of April 2019, the foregoing document was filed with Docket Control as a 17 Securities Division Memorandum & Proposed Order. On this date or as soon as possible thereafter, 18 a copy of the foregoing will be mailed to the following who have not consented to email service. 19 Roderick Rickert 20 501 W Laredo Ave Gilbert, AZ 85233 21 Individual respondent and officer of respondent Titan Capital Real Estate Fund I 22 Lee Stein 23 Anne Chapman Anna Finn 24 MITCHELL STEIN CAREY CHAPMAN One Renaissance Square 25 Two North Central Ave, St. 1450 Phoenix, AZ 85004 26 Attorneys for respondent Adam Child and respondent spouse Erin Child

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4	Attorneys for receiver of respondents Titan Capital Holdings and Titan Funding Group I
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6	By: June Q. Glidge
7	Emie R. Bridges, Executive Assistant
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